



City of New Bedford
Scott W. Lang, Mayor

City of New Bedford
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

New Bedford Awarded Tree City USA

Mayor Announces the Establishment of a Tree Farm and Tree City Committee

New Bedford, Massachusetts- The National Arbor Day Foundation has named New Bedford a 2006 Tree City USA and the community celebrated this honor with the planting of dozens of new trees in several different neighborhoods. Mayor Scott W. Lang announced that the city has started its own tree farm and he also announced the formation of a committee that will work toward increasing the number of trees planted citywide.

Earlier this month, under the leadership of Arthur Tetreault, certified arborist and Superintendent of the Cemetery Department, more than thirty members of "Youthbuild" organized and participated in planting trees in the Hillman Street area. Mr. Tetreault, underscored the importance of teaching children and the general public the benefits of living in a tree filled community. "It's important to teach the benefits of trees and their effect on controlling pollution, providing oxygen, and helping to reduce global warming, just to name a few. We're breathing fresh air into our city one tree at a time," he said.

In addition to the trees planted in the Hillman Street area, the city also planted trees along Earle Street and Sawyer Street. "There are few things that are more effective in softening the image of a city street and erasing urban blight more than a tree. I am very excited that we are able to create a beautiful landscape for the residents of Sawyer Street," said Ward 3 City Councilor Joe DeMedeiros. During the next few months, an additional 60 or more tree plantings are scheduled to occur throughout the neighborhoods of New Bedford.

In 2007, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation awarded the New Bedford Department of Public Infrastructure an urban forestry grant. The grant contributed in bringing to fruition the city's very own tree farm as well as the planting along Sawyer Street today.

“Very few tree lined streets remain in our city. With the addition of our own tree farm New Bedford is now able to replace unsightly damaged or diseased trees with healthy new saplings,” said Mayor Scott W. Lang.

Earlier this year, the City of New Bedford Tree City Committee was established to work toward increasing the number of trees planted citywide. The committee, co-chaired by Gig Lang and Jo-Ann Soares of the Department of Public Infrastructure, is working to encourage citizen participation through the purchase and adoption of trees for the purpose of city beautification, neighborhood enhancement, and improved air quality. The committee is comprised of key city department heads and engaged citizens. Members of the Tree City Committee encouraged people to join the National Arbor Day Foundation and to donate the 10 saplings they received upon registration to the Department of Public Infrastructure. The Department of Public Infrastructure is currently raising over 500 saplings that will ultimately become mature enough to plant in various locations throughout the city.

The Tree City Committee has created a fund where donations can be made to support the planting of mature trees. Donations can be made any New Bedford Credit Union location. Anyone interested in planting a memorial tree in remembrance of a loved one can contact the Department of Public Infrastructure for more information at (508) 979-1556.

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